



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2010
Contact: Lieutenant Vic Williams
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Mail thieves apprehended

Riverside, Ca. – On Wednesday, October 27, 2010, an alert Riverside Police Department Patrol officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle in the area of Jane and Margarita Avenues. During the course of the traffic stop the officer observed the occupants to be in possession of pry tools and various pieces of mail which he suspected to be stolen from mail boxes in the area. The officer, knowing that there has been a trend of mail thefts from residential mail boxes in the area arrested the two subjects and notified detectives who responded and continued the investigation.

Detectives have been investigating a recent series of mail thefts from residential mailboxes throughout the city. In some cases the thieves would pry the rear panel off of the community mail boxes and steal the contents. They would then use the personal information obtained from the mail to commit various types of fraud.

Detectives conducted a search of a residence on David Street in the City of Riverside and recovered additional suspected stolen items such as i-pods and an i-phone which are suspected of being stolen. The investigation is ongoing and to date the suspects have been connected to four thefts from mailboxes within the City of Riverside. The suspects have been identified as Ivan TAPIA, 28 and Flabio SANTOS, 25, both are from Riverside. Both suspects have each been charged with possession of stolen property and criminal conspiracy.

Citizens are urged to take measures to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of a mail theft by taking measures such as; reporting suspicious individuals and vehicles seen driving around their neighborhood, know your postal schedule and pick up mail promptly, report any theft of mail promptly and take part in your local Neighborhood Watch Program.

This investigation is ongoing and anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact Officer Vince Morris from the Riverside Police Department at 951-826-8712.

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